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It is his view that "the establishment of a genetic classification is dependent only on a fuller knowledge of facts and principles," and "a systematic treatment of igneous rocks on these lines . . . is not to be expected in the immediate future." Professor Iddings has made no attempt at a genetic classification, believing that there are too many factors influencing genetic relations to permit of their use. He thinks that the chemical composition of an igneous rock is "its most fundamental character . . . and is therefore of greatest importance for its correlation with other igneous rocks."

Professor Iddings' book is a most valuable addition to the literature of petrology and will be welcomed by students for its presentation of the new view of those problems which, to a large extent, have heretofore been given only in scattered publications, representing the work of such men as Day and his colleagues in the Geophysical Laboratory, Doelter, and Vögt.

The book is well printed on good paper, the half-tones are clear, and the line drawings are neat. The book is bound in blue cloth uniformly with the same author's *Rock Minerals*.

A. J.

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*Through the Yukon and Alaska.* By T. A. RICKARD. I-XIII, pp. 384. San Francisco: Mining and Scientific Press, 1909.

Few if any travelers in Alaska have made so many and such accurate observations as Mr. Rickard, and of those who have published similar journals, no one has included so much of real value to those interested in the resources of the Yukon district and Alaska, or in the mining activities of those countries. The author has told in a delightful way many of the incidents of travel, and has taken pains to give accurately the history of some of the most remarkable discoveries in these northern countries. The romantic history of the Treadwell mines, the discovery of gold on the Klondike, the wonderful development at Fairbanks, and the story of the discovery and exploitation of the Nome beach, are here given in a fuller and more interesting way than they have elsewhere appeared. Mr. Rickard has retold many of the stories associated with life in Alaska, during the exciting periods from 1895 to 1900: thus the fake discovery of a Silent City, the story of Soapy Smith and his gang of desperadoes, the incidents associated with the great stampede over White Pass and Chilkoot Pass, the life at Dawson, on Cleary Creek, and the story of many events at Nome which have afforded material for novels and magazine articles, are given in a very readable form. The book is, however, more than a

narrative of travel, for the author has described the mining conditions and mining processes with an ability that few can equal. The book is well illustrated and a very welcome addition to the literature on Alaska.

W. W. A.

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*Schistosity by Crystallization.* By FRED. EUGENE WRIGHT. *Am. Jour. Sci.*, Vol. XXII, September, 1906.

The schistose and gneissose textures of many metamorphic rocks have been ascribed to the orienting influence of pressures with a stress difference acting during the recrystallization of the rock in its new environment—solution taking place along the line of greatest strain and deposition along the line of least resistance and normal to the maximum stress. In such cases the rock cleavage is due to the parallel arrangement of its mineral components in planes perpendicular to the line of greatest stress.

Conditions of experiment in which crystallization under unequal strains could take place were effected by using cubes of glasses made by chilling melts of different minerals rapidly, and by heating these to the point at which crystallization first began, the viscous glass at that temperature being still in a state of fair rigidity, and capable of supporting a certain amount of unequal strain. Textures similar to those of certain metamorphic rocks were produced in this way, and an experimental confirmation of the theoretical deductions thus obtained.

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*Quartz as a Geological Thermometer.* By FRED. EUGENE WRIGHT AND ESPER S. LARSEN. *Am. Jour. Sci.*, Fourth Series, Vol. XXVII, p. 162.

This paper, which is a review and discussion of experiments made by the writers in the Geophysical Laboratory of the Carnegie Institution at Washington, is an important contribution to the knowledge of mineral genesis. By means of the electric resistance microscope the birefringence and circular polarization of quartz plates at various temperatures were measured and the inversion point ( $575^{\circ}$ ) was accurately determined.

The birefringence of the quartz plates decreases gradually from  $0^{\circ}$  to  $575^{\circ}$ , at which point the decrease is very rapid. Beyond this point the birefringence increases slightly. The inversion was observed both on heating and cooling and the changes are constant and sharply marked. There is also a marked change in the angle of circular polarization at the inversion temperatures and abrupt change in the coefficient of expansion